



By Ellsworth Davis, Staff Photographer

An eavesdropping device, 1st transmitter no larger than a thumbnail, was shown here yesterday by Jay Tracer, president of Tracer Investigative Products, Inc., a California firm. The receiver fits into a camera-size case.

U.S. Sleuths Take In A Local 'Bug' Show

By Ernest A. Lotito
Staff Reporter

9/23/61
Jay Tracer is in a touchy without the full means to a business. He makes "bugs" accomplish his task.

the controversial little gadgets that are used for eavesdropping.

For some, "bug" is synonymous with "invasion of privacy," since strictly speaking, use of the device without Federal Communication Commission permission is illegal.

But the 46-year-old Tracer is from the school that believes

more good than evil can come from eavesdropping equipment. He feels "bugs" are invaluable tools in protecting national security and the public interest.

Loses Rights

"I'm against invasion of privacy," he says. "But I feel men agents, who presumably would get FCC permission before using anything they might buy."

"I believe the police have the right to tap telephones if they have good reason to believe that someone is breaking the law," he added. "I think they don't want a police state, but neither do I believe that you can be placed around a large warehouse that has been plagued by burglars," he said.

Come for a Peek

Tracer, who heads the California-based Tracer Investigative Products, Inc., was demonstrating his equipment yesterday at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel. Many of those who

"One man stationed centrally can cover a whole complex of buildings."

Tracer showed a transmitter that could be taped inconspicuously in a man's chest cavity and a receiver that looked just like an attache case when closed.

"A police informant can use this little transmitter to approach a dope peddler," he explained. "Police, a short distance away, can listen and move in when the 'buy' has been made."

A former agent with the Counter Intelligence Corps, Tracer has been manufacturing eavesdropping equipment seven years. He develops other electronic equipment too, including a swimming pool alarm that sounds off when anything including children fall in.